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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

DIRECT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF SURPLUS FOODS DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND NEEDY PERSONS  
FISCAL YEARS 1947 THROUGH 1957

The distribution of donated foods by the Department of Agriculture to domestic recipients is authorized under provisions of Section 32, Public Law 320, 74th Congress, approved August 24, 1935, as amended, and, under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended.

The attached statistical tables were prepared to provide a concise record of individual commodity distribution to domestic recipients over the last eleven years. These tables may be useful as reference material in the course of program operations.

For the eleven fiscal years 1947 through 1957, a total of 5.2 billion pounds of 59 different surplus foods were distributed under the above legislative authorities to schools, institutions, and needy persons in family units at a total cost to the Government of \$1.1 billion. (See attached tables) The pounds distributed and dollars expended during the fiscal year 1957 exceeded that of any other year.

In terms of volume of commodities distributed over the 11 year period, fresh and processed vegetables and dairy products represented 32 percent and 23 percent, respectively, of the total. On an individual commodity basis, the ten leading commodities in volume distributed amounted to 76 percent of the total. These commodities were as follows:

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TOTAL</u>	<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TOTAL</u>
Irish Potatoes	25	Flour	6
Butter	8	Dry Beans	5
Nonfat Dry Milk	8	Beef & Gravy, Cnd.	3
Apples, fresh	8	Corn Meal	3
Cheese	7	Rice	3

No one food item was acquired and distributed every year since 1947. Nonfat dry milk was distributed in 8 of the 11 years; butter, cheese, cabbage and dry beans in 7 years.

The cost to the Government of the surplus commodities distributed domestically during the period FY-1947 to 1957 totaled \$1.1 billion. Dairy products account for nearly half of this total. A compilation of this expenditure over the 11 year period, by commodity groups with percentages of the total expended, is



as follows:

<u>COMMODITY GROUP</u>	<u>THOUSAND DOLLARS</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TOTAL</u>
Dairy Products	513,287	47
Poultry Products	118,085	11
Meat Products	222,992	21
Fats and Oils	43,583	4
Fresh Fruit	27,315	2
Processed Fruit	28,727	3
Fresh Vegetables	41,777	4
Processed Vegetables	21,836	2
Grains and Flour	53,719	5
Miscellaneous	12,011	1
Total	1,083,332	100'

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NOTE: During the period 1947 through 1951 the tables reflect the fiscal year during which the commodities were distributed and do not necessarily reflect the year in which the items were acquired. For the period 1952 through 1957 the amounts distributed during each fiscal year are the same as the amounts acquired.





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NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF FOODS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT  
FISCAL YEARS 1947 THROUGH 1957

Section 6 of the National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396, 79th Congress, approved June 4, 1946, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to expend up to approximately 22 percent of the annual appropriation for the School Lunch Program for agricultural commodities and other foods to be distributed to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

For the eleven fiscal years, 1947 through 1957, a total of 975 million pounds of 32 different Section 6 foods were distributed to schools at a total cost to the Federal Government of \$153 million. (See attached tables.)

For the period 1947 through 1951, these tables reflect the fiscal year during which the foods were distributed and do not necessarily reflect the fiscal year in which the items were purchased. An example of this is the 51,000 pounds of nonfat dry milk which was a carry-over distribution into FY-1951 from the FY-1950 purchase. This was also true of raisins in FY-1948 and tomato juice in FY-1950.

In terms of volume of commodities distributed over the 11-year period, canned vegetables and canned fruits represented 40 percent and 29 percent, respectively, of the total. The remaining 31 percent was accounted for by the other five commodity groups. On an individual commodity basis, the five leading commodities in volume distributed amounted to 59 percent of the total. These commodities were canned tomatoes (21%), canned peaches (18%), concentrated orange juice (7%), cheese (7%), and grapefruit sections (6%).

No one food item was purchased and distributed every year of the program. Canned tomatoes and peanut butter were purchased in 10 of the 11 years; concentrated orange juice in 9 years; and canned peaches in 8 years. Except for cheese and tomato paste which were purchased in 7 of the 11 years, all others were purchased fewer times.

The cost to the Government of the Section 6 foods distributed through FY-1957 totaled \$153 million. A compilation of this expenditure over the 11-year period by commodity groups with percentages of the total expended, is as follows:

<u>COMMODITY GROUP</u>	<u>THOUSAND DOLLARS</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TOTAL</u>
Meat Products	7,518	5
Dairy Products	31,559	21
Citrus Juice	16,575	11
Canned Fruits	33,626	22
Dried Fruits	4,320	3
Canned Vegetables	40,177	26
Miscellaneous	19,098	12
Total	152,873	100

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